

**Written Testimony of Gus A. Krudwig**  
**Co-Founder the Glou Factory**  
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**The Business of Math and Science Education H.R. XXXX**

The Glou Factory is a non-profit 501c3 youth education center started by Gus Krudwig and Lou Cubille in Jackson Michigan.

Since its inception in November 2000 the goal of the Glou Factory has been to provide quality programs that educate and mentor our youth so that they can become successful students and future leaders in their community. This goal is being accomplished by providing after-school, Saturday, and summer enrichment programs that develop self-esteem, self-respect, and the ability to work well with others. The success we achieve is due in part to the quality and strength of the programs, smaller class size and dedicated volunteers. Each student is given personal attention so that they understand what is being taught to them.

The Glou Factory has served over 1300 kids in specialized programs in Computer Technology, Woodworking, Cycology (Bike Repair) and Art. Our programs specifically address four needs in the community:

1. The need for early vocational decision-making and training for Jackson County youth. Currently, there are few interactive hands on programs in Jackson County. While some in-school programs do exist, hands-on, vocational programs are increasingly being cut back due to budget constraints and other academic priorities.
2. The need for young people to develop "life skills" that prevent unhealthy behaviors. These skills include problem-solving, critical thinking, conflict resolution, cooperative learning, developing healthy behaviors, and avoiding behaviors such as drug and alcohol abuse and juvenile crime.
3. The need for a skilled workforce to fulfill employment requirements of area employers that require increasingly sophisticated technical and workplace skills. Technical skills most needed in our community include basic use of information technology, manufacturing technology, and the skilled trades. Workplace skills needed include team building, written and oral communications, planning and organizing, and habits of responsible employment. These skills will lead to a more successful, productive adulthood.
4. The need for youth to develop habits of community service. Communities need citizens who are engaged in civic affairs and voluntary, community service activities.

Additional program outcomes also include asset development and fulfillment of the promises related to the Jackson County Promise to Youth Alliance by offering:

- Marketable skills through effective education
- Ongoing relationships with caring adults
- Safe places and structured activities during non-school hours

- Opportunities to give back through community service

### **Computer Programs            3 programs**

Introduction to Computer Technology  
Computer Lessons (Ayieko Resource Center)  
Digital Film and Computers

#### **Introduction to Computer Technology**

Our experience has shown us that children that do not have a computer at home are less likely to interact with computers at school. They have a fear that something they do will cause the computer to crash or become damaged and they do not want to get in trouble. Our program is designed to demystify this technology so youth have a basic understanding of how a computer works and the practical use and limitations of computer software.

During this program we take ten working computers into a lower income area of Jackson and give kids an opportunity to take these computers apart, identify their components and put the computers back together in working order.

Youth work with a variety of software and recognize the differences in the types of software. For example the difference between a drawing program and a paint program, open ended vs. closed ended software.

They are also given opportunities to work with a computer that they can talk to and it will respond to their voice commands. For example if they say, "Athos tell me a joke", the computer would then tell them a joke. They can also play a song of their choice, print documents, open, close and quit applications etc. all through voice commands.

#### **Computer Lessons (Ayieko Resource Center)**

The Ayieko Resource Center is a high-speed Internet computer lab operated by the Jackson Housing Commission, targeting low income residents but, open to the general public in Jackson Michigan. The Glou Factory assists students and adults that want to improve their computer skills in small-personalized classes. Approximately 95% of the people using this lab are from the low-income housing complexes immediately surrounding the center.

#### **Digital Film and Computers**

During the program we film and photograph the students. At the conclusion of the program we teach the kids involved how to transfer this information to a computer using title screens, transitions, screen effects, add narration and music and edit it into a completed short film. These films are used for program promotion and to help secure additional funding for future projects.

### **Woodworking (Birdhouse Project)**

This project is what we refer to as an integrated project, incorporating woodworking skills, blueprint reading and measurements, computer design and art. Woodworking skills include sanding, painting, proper use of tools and safety equipment, assembly techniques and craftsmanship. Students are also given a set of blueprints for each piece of their birdhouse without the dimensions. The students then use tape measures to enter the required dimensions. Once the worksheets are complete the students are taken to a computer lab where they learn to

draw the pieces in a 3-D representation using the measurements from the blueprint worksheets. Students are also given art instruction and taught how to paint a landscape on the roof panels of their birdhouses. In past summer birdhouse projects, we had access to a commercial grade laser engraver that the students used to engrave their name directly onto the birdhouse furthering the computer skills used in this project.

We have attached a complete detailed 9-week program description (See Appendix)

## **Cycology      2 programs**

Bike Repair

Safe Kids Bike Clinics

### **Bike Repair**

This program is designed to teach kids how to properly inspect and repair bikes. It is open to youth ages 10 – 14 years old. After fixing 3 bikes the students are allowed to keep one – the others are donated to youth and adults in Jackson, strengthening the community service aspect of this program. This program involves increased vocational preparation skills, including understanding the mechanics of bicycles, learning how to disassemble, repair and reassemble bicycles, and using appropriate tools properly and safely. Donations of bikes come from the Cascades Civitan Club, City of Jackson Police Department, and the general public.

### **Safe Kids Bike Clinics**

Clinics occur at various locations in Jackson and allow kids the opportunity to have their bikes repaired and licensed. They also receive a free, properly fitted bike helmet and learn bike safety on an approved course. Youth that have participated in our bike repair program assist at these clinics.

## **Art Programs      2 programs**

Painting

Murals

### **Painting**

The Glou Factory is best known for its art programs because of the results we achieve with youth with little or no artistic background. They start by learning about primary and secondary colors and basic shapes. The first painting they do is a simple landscape where they learn step-by-step how to design and compose the space of a blank canvas (8 1/2"x11"). They learn how to use and maintain materials properly, blend colors and use different techniques to get desired effects. This is an example of a painting done by one of our 10 year old students. (Note: this was her first painting with brush and canvas)

### **Murals**

Due to its location and changes in the manufacturing arena, the city of Jackson is quickly developing into a community that is becoming more aware of its art and culture. Since the Glou Factory is successful with its art-based youth programs, we get requests for youth to paint murals that will be displayed in schools, churches or on the sides of buildings.

Some of the largest permanent murals we have created have been for the Armory Arts Project, a multi-million dollar project that will turn a vacant unused manufacturing plant into a low-income housing project for working visual and performing artists and their families. Murals for this project were designed to show local Jackson artists performing their art. Since the Armory Arts will not be opened until 2005, these murals will remind the public of future plans for this site.

Mural programs include sessions in conceptual drawing, photography, film, design layout, and final painting. These programs are open to youth ages 14 – 21.

#### Measurements of Success

1. Does the project meet the community needs and asset development identified by the Glou Factory? .
2. Does it satisfy the high program standards expected from the Glou Factory?
3. Testing - Pre Tests allow us to gauge the current knowledge of the average program participant. Post Tests allow us to gauge how well we achieved our goals. Pre and post tests are used extensively during the first year of a program's development. They assist us with the overall program development. We do not use pre and post test scores as statistical measures of student achievement.
4. Staff /Volunteer assessments – each segment of the program is evaluated and proposed changes to the program are discussed
5. Project Quality – Are the students, parents, funders, schools and program partners satisfied with the overall quality of the project

#### Current Community Partners

Armory Arts Project  
Enterprise Group  
Artspace  
Greater Jackson Chamber of Commerce  
Ayieko Resource Center  
Jackson Housing Commission  
Irish Hills Girl Scout Council  
Camp O the Hills  
Jackson Public Schools  
Bennett Elementary  
Hunt Elementary  
Northeast Elementary  
Wilson Elementary  
Parkside Middle School  
Amy Firth (Alternative Middle School)  
Tomlinson (Alternative High School)  
Jackson County Intermediate School District  
Columbia Elementary School  
Western Middle School  
Safe Kids – Jackson Chapter

Jackson City Police Department  
Jackson City Fire Department  
United Way  
Jackson Community Ambulance  
Toy House  
Jackson Community Corrections Program  
St. John's United Church of Christ  
North Parma United Methodist Church  
Cascades Civitan Club  
Diversity Study Circles  
Jackson County Community Foundation  
Jackson County Youth Advisory Committee  
Prevention Partners  
COJAX - Cultural Organizations of Jackson  
Arts and Cultural Alliance of Jackson County – Design Review Board

Gus A. Krudwig – Biography  
Co-founder  
The Glou Factory

Gus attended Eastern Michigan University where he studied Criminal Justice. He has a background in law enforcement (Whitmore Lake Police Dept.) and security (University of Michigan Housing Security Department). In 1991 Gus began using his expertise to assist various non-profit organizations and local schools with computer technical support. It was during this time that Gus began working with youth and youth related programs and this provided a foundation for the development of the Glou Factory. In November 2000, Gus Krudwig and Louis Cubille formed the Glou Factory, a youth education facility that teaches students about art, woodworking, computer technology and bicycle repair.

Louis Cubille - Biography  
Co-founder  
The Glou Factory

Since moving to Jackson in 1992, Louis has had many accomplishments that have changed the face of Jackson. His biggest accomplishment is being the co-founder of the Glou Factory, a youth education facility that teaches students about art, woodworking, computer technology and bicycle repair.

He designed the art for a water tower welcoming people to the city. He also supervised and assisted local youth and adult artists to paint murals that adorn Casler Hardware, Armory Arts Project, King Center, Amy Firth Middle School, Northeast Elementary, Allen Elementary, Tomlinson High School, St. John's United Church of Christ, and New City Resources. He has taught art to hundreds of Jackson County youth.

A native of Ponce, Puerto Rico, Louis and his family moved to New York when he was seven. Since Spanish and English are spoken at home he is fluent in both languages. He started his art career at the High School of Art and Design and furthered his education at the Fashion Institute of Technology, where he majored in illustration and advertising.

As a commercial artist Louis has worked for some of the largest department stores in New York City and was art director for a major mail order company.